

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Please amend claims 18, 23, and 27 as follows:

Listing of Claims:

1-10. (Cancelled)

11. (Previously Presented) A computer-implemented method for sending an Email communication to recipients, the method comprising:

providing an Email communication program on a server that performs the acts of: receiving an Email communication, including an indication of at least one recipient to receive the Email communication;

determining by the Email communication program, whether multiple recipients of the Email communication have been indicated in the received indication; and

if it is determined that multiple recipients have been indicated,

storing a single copy of the Email communication on the server;

notifying each of the multiple recipients of the Email communication without sending the Email communication to the recipients; and

in response to a request for the Email communication from a recipient, sending the Email communication to the recipient.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 including:

if it is determined that multiple recipients have not been indicated,

sending the Email communication to the recipient without waiting for a request for the Email communication.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 including:

tracking the sending of the Email communication to the recipients; and

when the Email communication has been sent to all of the recipients, deleting the stored Email communication by the Email communication program.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 including:  
when it is determined that the Email communication has been sent to all of the  
recipients and that none of the recipients have indicated that the Email communication is to be  
saved, deleting the stored Email communication by the Email communication program.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 including:  
when it is determined that the Email communication has been sent to all of the  
recipients and that all of the recipients have indicated that the Email communication can be  
deleted, deleting the stored Email communication by the Email communication program.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 including:  
determining a period of time for which the Email communication will be stored;  
and

when the determined period of time has expired, deleting the stored Email  
communication by the Email communication program.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 wherein the notifying of a  
recipient of the Email communication involves sending a distinct indicator Email communication  
to the recipient by the Email communication program.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11 including retrieving  
notifying instructions for a recipient ~~by the Email communication program~~, and wherein the  
notifying of the recipient is performed according to the notifying instructions.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18 wherein the notifying  
instructions are supplied by a sender of the Email communication.

20. (Original) The method of claim 18 wherein the notifying instructions are  
supplied by the recipient.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18 wherein the notifying  
instructions are determined automatically by the Email communication program based on past  
interactions with the recipient.

22. (Original) The method of claim 18 wherein the notifying instructions indicate that the notifying is to be performed in an encrypted manner.

23. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for sending an Email communication to a plurality of recipients, the method comprising:

providing an Email communication program on a server that performs the acts of: receiving an Email communication including an indication of the plurality of recipients to receive the Email communication;

storing only a single copy of the Email communication on a server, the storing of the only the single copy of the Email communication being automatically performed by the Email communication program because a plurality of recipients have been indicated;

notifying each of the recipients of the Email communication without sending the Email communication to the recipients; and

in response to a request for the Email communication from a recipient, sending the Email communication to the recipient.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23 including:  
tracking the requests for the Email communication from the recipients; and  
after all of the recipients have requested the Email communication, deleting the stored Email communication by the Email communication program.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24 wherein the deleting is performed only when none of the recipients desire continuing access to the Email communication by the Email communication program.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23 including automatically sending the Email communication to a non-recipient authorized to access the Email communication.

27. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 23 including retrieving sending instructions for a recipient ~~by the Email communication program~~, and wherein the sending of the Email communication is performed according to the sending instructions.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27 wherein the sending instructions are supplied by a sender of the Email communication.

29. (Original) The method of claim 27 wherein the sending instructions indicate that the sending is to be performed in an encrypted manner.

30-36. (Cancelled).

37. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium containing instructions for controlling a computer system to send an Email communication to recipients by:

configuring an Email communication program to perform each of the acts of:  
receiving an Email communication and an indication of at least one recipient to receive the Email communication;

determining whether multiple recipients of the Email communication have been indicated in the received indication; and

if it is determined that multiple recipients have been indicated,

storing a single copy of the Email communication on a server;

notifying each of the multiple recipients of the Email communication without sending the Email communication to the recipients; and

in response to a request for the Email communication from a recipient, sending the Email communication to the recipient.

38. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 37 wherein the Email communication program is further configured to perform the acts of:

if it is determined that multiple recipients have not been indicated,

sending the Email communication to the recipient without waiting for a request for the Email communication.

39. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 37 wherein the Email communication program is further configured to perform the acts of:

tracking the sending of the Email communication to the recipients; and

when the Email communication has been sent to all of the recipients, deleting the stored Email communication.

40. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 37 wherein the Email communication program is further configured to perform the acts of:

when it is determined that the Email communication has been sent to all of the recipients and that the Email communication has not been indicated to be saved by any of the recipients, deleting the stored Email communication.

41. (Previously Presented) A computer system for sending an Email communication to recipients, comprising:

an Email communication distributor program that receives the Email communication and an indication of at least one recipient to receive the Email communication, and that determines whether multiple recipients of the Email communication have been indicated in the received indication, that stores a single copy the Email communication on a server if multiple recipients have been indicated and notifies each of the multiple recipients of the Email communication without sending the Email communication to the recipients if it is determined that multiple recipients have been indicated, and that sends the Email communication to a recipient in response to a request for the Email communication from the recipient.

42. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 41 wherein the Email communication distributor program is further configured for sending the Email communication to a single recipient without waiting for a request for the Email communication if it is determined that multiple recipients have not been indicated.

43. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 42, further comprising:

a communication tracker configured with the Email communication distributor program for tracking the sending of the Email communication to the recipients, and for deleting the stored Email communication when the Email communication has been sent to all of the recipients.

44. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 43, further comprising:

a communication tracker configured with the Email communication distributor program for deleting the stored Email communication when it is determined that the Email

communication has been sent to all of the recipients and that that the Email communication has not been indicated to be saved by any of the recipients.